

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 01678 231643Z

66

ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 DLOS-03 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00

OES-02 EB-03 CIAE-00 OFA-01 /043 W

----- 009848

R 231547Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9624

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1678

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NO, UR, SV

SUBJECT: SVALBARD SYMPOSIUM AND BARENTS SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF
DELIMITATION TALKS

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS VIBE TOLD DCM LAST
WEEK NORWAY HAD PROPOSED TO USSR THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON DELIMITING
THE BARENTS SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOULD RECONVENE THE END OF MAY.
HE HAD LITTLE HOPE THAT SOVIETS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN TALKING
BEFORE THE FALL WHEN THE RESULTS OF THE LAW OF THE SEA TALKS WILL HAVE

BEEN DIGESTED.

2. GEOLOGIST ON EXCHANGE AGREEMENT FROM U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
YOCHELSON, HAS MEANWHILE PICKED UP STORY FROM COLLEAGUES AT
PALEONTOLOGICAL MUSEUM HERE THAT NORWAY IS HOPING TO USE SYMPOSIUM
ON SVALBARD GEOLOGY, REPORTEDLY CONVENED BY POLAR INSTITUTE WITH
LITTLE AVANCE NOTICE FOR JUNE 2-6, AS OPPORTUNITY TO SOUND OUT
VIEWS OF SOVIET SCIENTISTS ON DELIMITATION OF CONTINENTAL SHELF
IN BARENTS SEA, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT KNOWN GEOLOGY OF AREA. THE
THEME OF CONFERENCE IS "THE GEOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF SVALBARD
DURING PRE-CAMBRIAN AND LOWER PALAEOZOIC INCLUDING DEVONIAN."

A SEVEN-MAN SOVIET DELEGATION IS EXPECTED INCLUDING V. SOKOLOV

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 OSLO 01678 231643Z

OF THE LENINGRAD ARTIC INSTITUTE.

3. QUESTION OF WHERE THE BORDER NEGOTIATIONS STAND AND WHAT THE NEXT STEP WILL BE REMAINS QUITE MURKY. CLEARLY ONE CONSIDERATION IN THE BORDER TALKS IS THE AMOUNT OF POTENTIAL OIL WHICH THE USSR MIGHT HOPE TO ACQUIRE IN ANY BORDER SETTLEMENT WHICH DEVIATED FROM MEDIAN LINE PRINCIPLE DUE TO "SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES." WHILE WE UNDERSTAND BOTH PARTIES HAVE DONE SOME SEISMIC WORK IN THE DISPUTED AREA, WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH OR WHETHER IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE THE INFORMATION BASIS FOR ANY MEANINGFUL DISCUSSION BETWEEN SCIENTISTS, TO ASSIST THE NEGOTIATORS WHEN THE TALKS

RESUMED. PROFESSOR GJELSVIK, THE RATHER DYNAMIC DIRECTOR OF THE POLAR INSTITUTE, HANDED OVER THE ADMINISTRATIVE REINS OF THE INSTITUTE TO HIS DEPUTY, LUNDQUIST, THIS WINTER IN ORDER TO PURSUE SOME SPECIAL GEOLOGICAL PROJECT IN WHICH HE IS INTERESTED. IT IS AT LEAST CONCEIVABLE THERE IS A CONNECTION. THIS WHOLE LINE OF SPECULATION COULD ALSO SIMPLY BE THE RESULT OF SUSPICION ON THE PART OF RIVAL SCIENTISTS, WHO FELT THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED SOONER ABOUT THE SVALBARD SYMPOSIUM.

4. NOTICES ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM WERE CERTAINLY SENT OUT, EVEN IF BELATEDLY, SINCE BRITISH SCIENTIST FROM CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY, WHO HAS DONE EXTENSIVE WORK ON SVALBARD, HAS RECEIVED THE AGENDA AND INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE. REGISTRATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMINAR WAS SUPPOSED TO BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 15, A SUMMARY OF ANY PAPERS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE SYMPOSIUM WILL BE IN ENGLISH. SINCE THE SOVIETS

ARE BELIEVED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE GEOLOGY OF SVALBARD THAN ANYONE ELSE, THE FACT THEY WOULD SEND A LARGE DELGATION IS INTERESTING, IF TRUE. WE ASSUME THAT TOCHELSON WILL ATTEND THE FULL SESSION AND BRIEF US ON ANY INTERESTING INSIGHTS INTO THE ENERGY POTENTIAL ON SVALBARD. BUT WHAT COULD HAPPEN OUTSIDE THE CONFERENCE HALL IS OBVIOUSLY OF GREATER POTENTIAL SIGNFICIANCE.

5. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO INQUIRE WHETHER JAMES HEG OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION HAS HEARD FROM GJELSVIK ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM OR HIS SPECIAL RESEARCH PROJECT, AND GET HIS REACTION TO RUMOR.
BYRNE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 OSLO 01678 231643Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINENTAL SHELF, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OSLO01678
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750143-0252
From: OSLO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750424/aaaaawti.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SVALBARD SYMPOSIUM AND BARENTS SEA CONTINENTAL SHELF DELIMITATION TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, NO, UR, SV
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006